

# County Snapshot

## County Snapshot

**Humboldt County** is located on California's north coast. Surrounding counties include Del Norte to the north, Siskiyou to the north and the east, Trinity to the east, and Mendocino to the south.

By the year 2020, population in Humboldt County is expected to reach 141,100. This will amount to an increase of almost 10 percent over the current population.

The 1999 annual average statistics show the civilian labor force to be 60,200 with an unemployment rate of 6.4 percent. The state's unemployment rate was 5.2 percent for the same year.

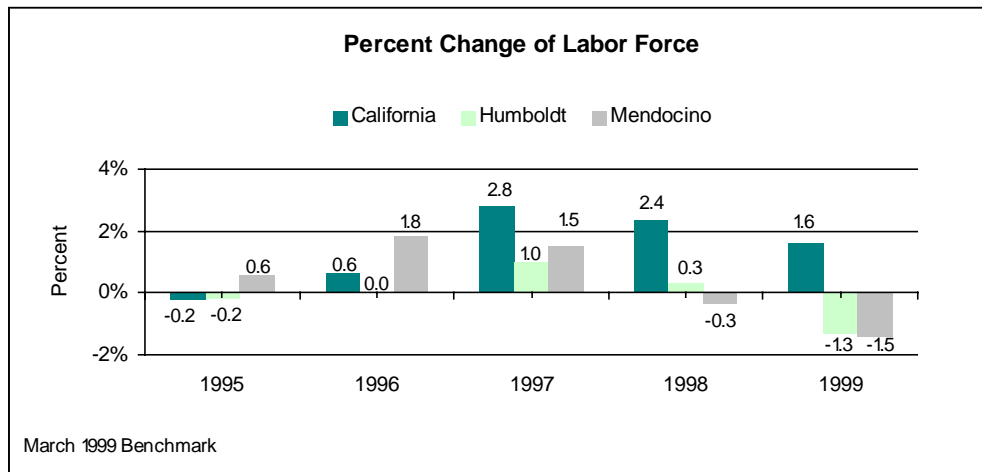
Humboldt County's timber resources traditionally have supported the biggest lumber industry in the state but the lumber and wood products industries have declined in recent years and the county is shifting from a resource-based economy to a service-based economy. In 1999, the services industry provided a majority of the employment in Humboldt County, almost 26 percent, with health services being the dominant component. Other significant industry sectors were government at 24 percent, and retail trade, which provided about 21 percent of the total.

Most of the future jobs in Humboldt County's nonfarm wage and salary employment will be in the same three industry sectors. Services, the fastest growing industry, is expected to add 3,150 jobs over the next few years, a growth of over 27 percent. Government will grow by over 9 percent with most of the growth occurring in local government. Retail trade is expected to gain 1,320 new jobs, a growth of almost 13 percent.

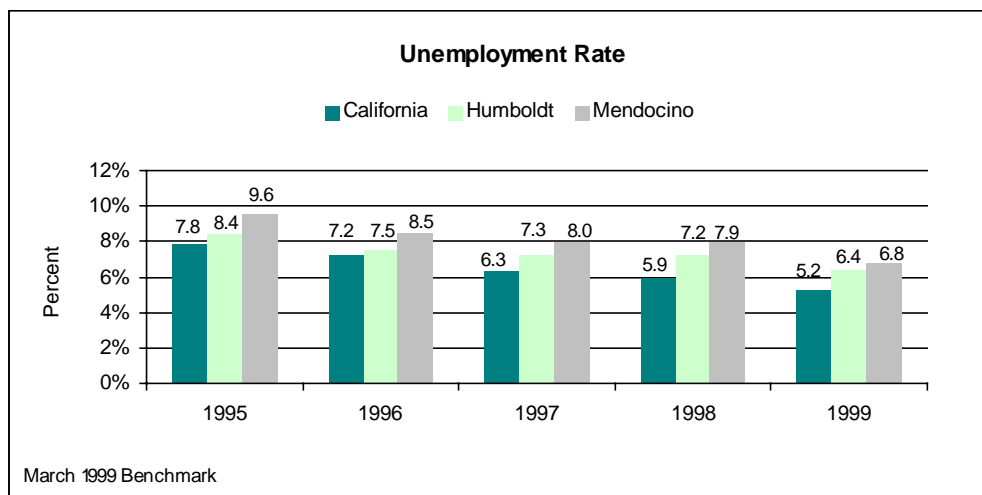
Despite fluctuations in labor force, Humboldt County is experiencing growth in nonfarm wage and salary employment and declining unemployment rates.

## LABOR FORCE

From 1995 to 1999, civilian labor force in Humboldt County remained relatively unchanged despite a decline of 1.3 percent in 1999. Declines in the timber industry and seasonal variations in a tourist-based economy are contributing to shifting employment patterns. Neighboring Mendocino County also recorded a decline in 1999 but had cumulative growth of 1.5 percent over the recorded period.

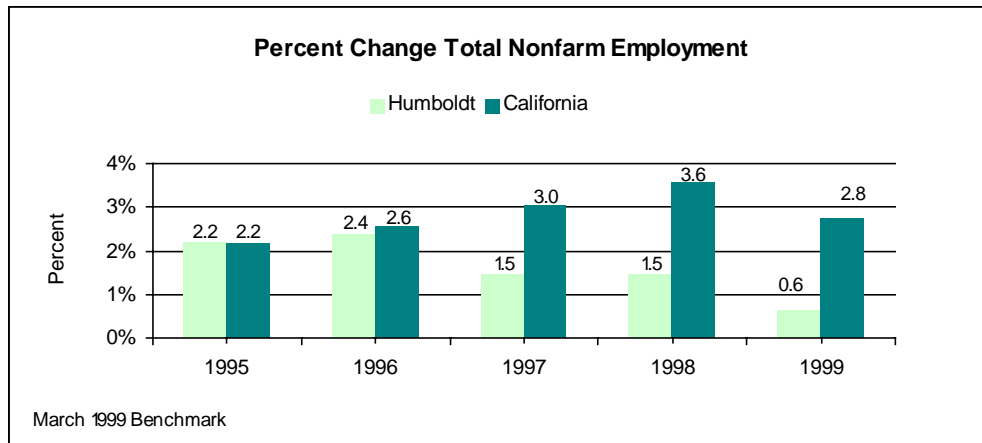


Although exceeding the rate for the state, both Humboldt and Mendocino counties recorded declining unemployment rates over the years 1995 to 1999. Humboldt County's annual average unemployment rate dropped 2 percentage points from 8.4 percent in 1995 to 6.4 percent in 1999.

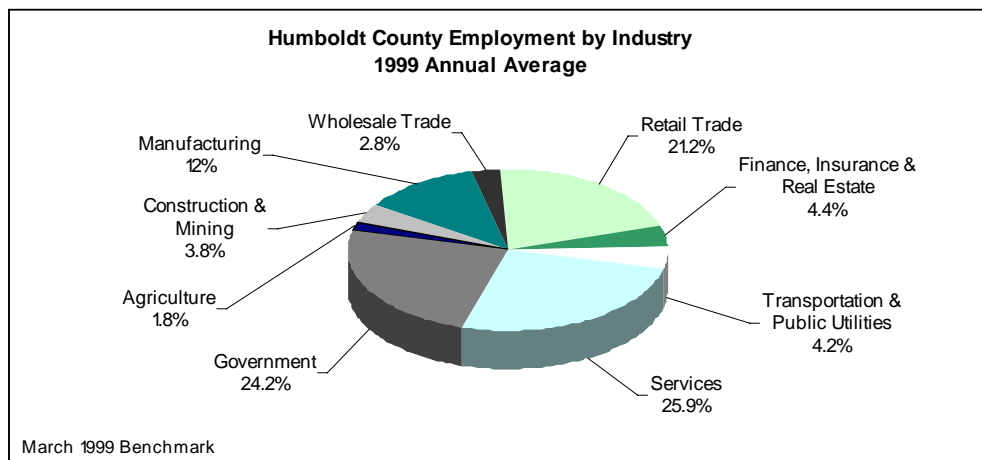


## INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT

Job growth creates opportunity and is considered to be one measure of economic health. From 1995 to 1999, Humboldt County recorded 6 percent cumulative growth in total nonfarm employment with the greatest growth, 2.4 percent, recorded in 1996. Over the recorded period, services and government accounted for most of the growth.



In 1999, services, government and retail trade dominated Humboldt County employment. Projections in nonfarm employment for this area indicate that the same three industries will account for over 77 percent of future job growth.



## OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Demographic trends, shifts in demands for products or services, technological innovations and the way business is conducted are some of the variables that drive employment in an occupation up or down. Also, occupations which have large employment and have high turnover rates generally provide the most job openings. Humboldt County is projected to have employment opportunities in the high turnover occupations.

Associated Occupations	<b>SERVICES</b> <b>1995 – 2002 Projected Growth 27.4%</b>
	<b>Registered Nurses – 210 job openings.</b> Provide direct bedside care and assist physicians with examinations, chart the conditions of patients, give medication, and administer treatment as ordered by the doctor. May supervise auxiliary nursing personnel. Associate Degree. Median Hourly Wage - \$17.63
	<b>Guards And Watch Guards – 120 job openings.</b> Stand guard at entrance gates or walk about premises of businesses, industrial establishments, or private residences to prevent theft, violence or infractions of rules. Direct patrons or employees, control traffic. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$7.34
	<b>Misc. Helpers, Laborers – Hand, NEC – 120 job openings.</b> Perform a broad array of helper and laborer jobs that require little training; assist more skilled production, construction, operating and maintenance workers with routine, physical work under close supervision. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$9.02
	<b>General Managers, Top Executives – 110 job openings.</b> Include both top and mid-level managers whose duties and responsibilities are too diverse and general in nature to be classified in any functional or line area of management and administration. Work Experience, plus a Bachelor's or higher. Median Hourly Wage - \$19.73
	<b>Nurse Aides, Orderlies, Attendants – 110 job openings.</b> Help care for physically or mentally ill, injured, disabled, or infirm individuals confined to hospitals and residential care facilities. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$7.58
Associated Occupations	<b>RETAIL TRADE</b> <b>1995 – 2002 Projected Growth 12.7%</b>
	<b>Salespersons, Retail – 250 job openings.</b> Get the customer interested by describing the merchandise and showing how it is used. May also order merchandise, stock shelves, mark price tags, take inventory and prepare displays. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$7.10
	<b>Cashiers – 190 job openings.</b> Handle cash and credit payments, make change, give receipts, account for all payments, and perform related clerical duties. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$7.21
	<b>Waiters and Waitresses – 140 job openings.</b> Serve food and drink to customers. Duties may include explanation about how the meal is prepared, wine recommendations or simple food preparation at the table. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$5.52
	<b>First-Line Supervisor / Manager Sales – 70 job openings.</b> Directly supervise and coordinate activities of marketing, sales, and related workers. May perform management functions, such as budgeting, accounting, marketing, and personnel work. Work Experience. Median Hourly Wage - \$12.72
	<b>Food Preparation Workers – 60 job openings.</b> Perform a variety of food preparation duties, such as preparing cold foods and maintaining and cleaning kitchen work areas, equipment, and utensils. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$5.79
Associated Occupations	<b>GOVERNMENT</b> <b>1995 – 2002 Projected Growth 9.4%</b>
	<b>Social Workers, Except Medical And Psychiatric – 30 job openings.</b> Counsel and aid individuals and families requiring social service assistance. Bachelor's Degree. Median Hourly Wage - \$14.59
	<b>Correction Officers, Jailers – 30 job openings.</b> Guard inmates in penal or rehabilitative institutions in accordance with established regulations and procedures. May guard prisoners in transit. Long-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$20.55
	<b>Compliance Officers And Enforcement Inspectors, Except Construction – 20 job openings.</b> Enforce adherence to policies, procedures, or regulations and advise on standards. May inspect and enforce regulations on such matters as health, safety, food, immigration, licensing, or interstate commerce. Work Experience. Median Hourly Wage - \$15.37
	<b>Human Services Workers – 20 job openings.</b> Assist Social Group Workers and Caseworkers with developing, organizing and conducting programs to prevent and resolve problems relevant to substance abuse and human relationships. Moderate-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$5.87
	<b>Police Patrol Officers – 20 job openings.</b> Maintain order, enforce laws and ordinances, protect life and property in an assigned patrol district or beat. Patrol on foot or in a vehicle; investigate accidents; apprehend, arrest and process prisoners; and give evidence in court. Long-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$24.05

This **County Snapshot** is a product of:  
State of California  
Employment Development Department  
Labor Market Information Division  
(916) 262-2162